INDO-CHINA POLITICAL RELATIONS IN POST-COLD WAR ERA

A Research Proposal

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1. INTRODUCTION:

India and China are the two of the world's oldest civilizations each with the quality of resilience, which has enabled to survive and prosper through the ages and against the odds. Both have a long, rich strategic tradition.

Political contacts between ancient China and India were few and far between. In the cultural sphere, the relation between the two countries traces at the emergence of Budhism. Hindu and Buddhist religious and cultural influence spread to China through Central Asia, and Chinese scholars were sent to Indian universities at Nalanda and Takshashila. Though, Chinese and Indian civilizations reacted to one another during the first few centuries of the Christian era, the process of religious- cultural interaction ceased after about the tenth century CE (coinciding with the Islamic invasions of India). Since then, the two countries lived as if they were oblivious to each other's existence for over a thousand years, until about the advent of the nineteenth century, when both came under the influence of European powers.

This research work concentrates on the metamorphosis of the political relations in between the two countries in post-cold war era especially from 1991 to 2017. This can help us to understand the problems, prospects and consequences of the political strategies and relations between the two countries.

2. ORIGIN OF THE RESEARCH PROBLEM:

India and China relations have been tense ever since a border dispute led to a full-scale war in 1962 and armed skirmishes in 1967 and 1987. Several rounds of talks held over more than a quarter of a century (since 1981) have failed to resolve the disputed claims. Agreements on maintaining peace and tranquility on the disputed border were signed in 1993 and 1996. An agreement on the guiding principles for settlement was concluded in 2005.

An unsettled boundary also suits Chinese interests for the present because China's claims in the western sector are complicated by the India- Pakistan dispute over Kashmir, Pakistan's interests in the Sino- Indian territorial dispute, and Beijing's interest in keeping India under strategic pressure on two fronts.

Even if the territorial dispute was resolved, China and India would still retain a competitive relationship. Other factors, apart from the territorial dispute, contribute to the fractious and uneasy relationship. These include the nature of China's ties with India's smaller South Asian neighbors (including its arming of them); the legacy of Cold War alignments (Beijing- Islamabad-Washington versus the Moscow– New Delhi); continuing unrest in Tibet and Kashmir; Chinese encroachments into what India sees as its sphere of

influence; Beijing's plans for a naval presence in the Indian Ocean; resource competition; power asymmetry and a rivalry for the leadership of the developing world and multilateral forums; and, more recently, the nuclear and naval rivalries.

Historically and culturally India never played second fiddle to China. Therein lies the root cause of volatile and strained relationship: Seeing China as the reference point of India's economic, security, and diplomatic policies, India's strategic analysts have long emphasized the need to keep up with China militarily. Initially, India's nuclear capability was aimed solely at deterring China, not Pakistan. It is the adversarial nature of the Sino- Indian relationship that has driven India's and, in turn, Pakistan's nuclear weapons programs.

The 1998 Indian nuclear tests were preceded by the Indian defense minister George Fernandes' statements that called China a bigger potential threat than Pakistan and described how his country was being encircled by Chinese military activities in Tibet and alliances with Pakistan and Myanmar. From New Delhi's perspective, much of Beijing's penetration deep into the South Asian region in the second half of the twentieth century has been primarily at India's expense. At the heart of Sino- Indian antagonism is the Indian belief that China is seeking to deny India its proper stakes in the game of international politics.

Both China and India of decline are keen to assume the great power roles they believe have been their right in view of their histories and civilizations. Both have similar robust attributes of a strong power: massive manpower resources; a scientific, technological, and industrial base; and formidable armed forces. Both are nuclear and space powers with growing ambitions. When Chinese and Indian elites speak of restoring their country's rightful place in the world, they give expression to a concept of preeminence in Asia and the wider world. This concept reflects their perception that as the foundation of regional cultural patterns, their rightful place is at the apex of world hierarchy.

The similarities between the two Asian giants' outlooks, aspirations, policies, and interests are indeed striking, despite their differing political systems. Both want a new international status that is commensurate with their size, strength, and potential. Both identify the present pattern of international relations with a world order designed to perpetuate the world domination of Western powers. Both see Asia's rise on the world stage as bringing about the end of Western dominance. Though uncomfortable with the U.S. dominance in world affairs, both are courting Washington to help balance their relationships with each other until they are strong enough to do so on their own. Both oppose the status quo: China in terms of territory, power, and influence; India in terms of status, power, and influence. Both yearn for a truly multipolar world that will provide them the space for growth and freedom of

action that befits great powers. Both have practiced "tilted nonalignment" (during the Cold War China tilted toward the U.S. (1971– 89) and India toward the USSR (1971– 1991) while preaching independent, nonaligned foreign policies. Both vie for influence in Central, South, and Southeast Asia and for leadership positions in global and regional organizations. Each puts forward proposals for multilateral cooperation that deliberately exclude the other.

Both see themselves as great Asian powers whose time has finally come. Both have attempted to establish a sort of Monroe Doctrine in their neighborhoods without much success. Both claim that their attitude toward their neighbors is essentially benevolent, while making it clear that those neighbors must not make policies or take actions, or allow other nations to take measures in their countries, that each deems to be against its own interest and security. If they do so, China and India are willing to apply pressure in one fashion or another to bring about desired changes. Both are unable to reassert their traditional suzerainty (dominion) over their smaller neighbors, as any attempt to do so encounters resistance from regional and extra- regional powers. Both remain suspicious of each other's long- term agenda and intentions. Each perceives the other as pursuing hegemony and entertaining imperial ambitions.

China and India also share remarkable similarities in economic outlooks and policies. Both are focusing on increasing comprehensive national strength on a solid economic-technological base. Both are major competitors for foreign investment, capital, trade, resources, and markets. Burgeoning economic ties between the world's two fastest- growing economies have become the most salient aspect of their bilateral relationship.

But in the economic sphere Chinese and Indian economies are still more competitive than complementary. Both look to the West and Japan for advanced technology, machinery, capital, and investment. Many Indians see China as predatory in trade and look with worry at China's robust growth rates, fearing getting left behind.

China and India's strategic cultures require both to regain the power and status their leaders consider appropriate to their country's size, population, geographical position, and historical heritage. There have been numerous occasions in history when China and India were simultaneously weak; there have been occasional moments of simultaneous cultural blossoming. But for more than half a millennium, Asia has not seen the two giants economi-cally and militarily powerful at the same time. That time is now approaching fast, and it is likely to result in significant new geopolitical realignments. The emergence of China and India as economic giants undoubtedly will throw a huge new weight onto the world's geopolitical balance. As India grows outwardly, the two giants are beginning to rub shoulders

(or ruffle feathers) in different parts of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. New economic prosperity and military strength is reawakening nationalist pride in India, which could bring about a clash with Chinese nationalism. The existence of two economically powerful nations will create new tensions as they both strive to stamp their authority on the region.

In the power competition game, while China has surged ahead by acquiring economic and military capabilities underpinned by a clear policy to achieve broader strategic objectives, India has a lot of catching up to do. The existing asymmetry in international status and power serves Beijing's interests very well; any attempt by India to challenge or undermine China's power and influence or to achieve strategic parity is strongly resisted through a combination of military, economic, and diplomatic means.

This research attempts to investigate the major political strategies of Indo-China relations. It will attempt to show the reason behind the clashes and positive solutions to tackle the challenges of two nations.

3. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS:

The proposed research work entitled '***Indo-China Political Relations in Post-Cold War Era***' examines the Indo-China relations since 1991 to 2017. It will cover tentatively twenty years to investigate the problems, prospects and consequences of the strategic relation. The period is deliberately selected to primarily focus on the multi-polarization of world power. The decentralization of the world power emerged in 2001 which ended the monopoly of USA. This resulted in the establishment of new superpower countries on the global stage. This period is transitional period to awaken the countries with making strong and healthy international relations. It focuses the current implications of the international strategic relationship of the both countries. The study will limit itself for twenty years to figure out the perfect, flawless and well-defined findings.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present research proposes to work for the fulfillment of the present following objectives.

1. To focus on the genesis of the Indo-China relations
2. To examine current relations of both the countries.
3. To investigate India's policies, approaches and strategies for Indo- China relations
4. To examine and evaluate China's policies, approaches and strategies for the relations between two nations.
5. To give a deep look at the root cause of all the violent conflicts and problems.
6. To find out the solutions through socio-cultural, economic and other benefits.

5. HYPOTHESIS:

1. India and China political relations changed in post-cold war era
2. Two nations can establish healthy political relations through constructive policies
3. The friendly relation between two countries can create healthy environment for world peace.
4. Good political relations plays key role in the economic development of the two countries.

6. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

The proposed research is based on secondary data. It will consider the major political incidents happened between the two nations in the above mentioned period. The proposed study is theoretical, historical, descriptive and interpretative in nature. It is historical in the sense that this examines the historical background of the Indo-China relations and contemplates on the nature of their relationship. This research has a deep and abiding concern and contemplation on the healthy relations and political disputes occurred in the above stated period. This method also attempts to examine the deep-rooted reasons behind the political and cultural relations between two nations.

7. METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION:

Primary and Secondary Data:

The study depends on both the primary and secondary sources of data, information and literature.

The primary sources will be taken on government documents; various reports (governmental and non-governmental) are examined. This data includes original documents on confidential and secrete letters and reports of officials, government documents and reports of India and China (post-independence) of policies and treats and agreements signed by both the governments. And along with this the reports of some very important and independent research studies conducted by Non-Governmental Institutions are also been investigated. The interview reports of political parties and leaders of both the countries are also examined regarding the whole subject. The original documents include resolutions of annual and special conferences, election manifestos and leaflets, control committee reports on party dissidents, writings of the leaders and correspondence of the party leaders to the Government of India and China. Party's official publications, published interviews and important speeches will be utilized in this study.

Secondary data includes books, newspaper clippings and research articles. The secondary sources consist of books, articles, newspapers and web pages. These secondary

readings will help in finalizing the issues to be dealt with, following which the area of study was chosen. There are a plethora of books, articles and documents available but the study examines only the relevant literature. The relevant reports, documents, books, articles will be harnessed to develop a better hypothesis and for the comprehensiveness of the study, though the basic -source is secondary in nature.

Interviews:

Interview schedules and participant observation were the primary research techniques employed in this field-study. Interview schedules will be open-ended and unstructured to ensure maximum transfer of information. Interview with the eminent scholars, government official, ministers, security and defense officials along with elderly peoples of the border areas will be usual but in-depth interviews will be conducted where the informants spoke about certain issues at great length. Participant observation for the case study was done by living with some older peoples both in the capital-city and all the sides of the border areas. The interview will be spread over three long phases of fieldwork of both the sides of the border in India and China. Close interaction and observation helped in understanding their life history.

8. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

The present study may prove significant in understanding strategic relations and realities of India and China. This is internationally significant study which attempts to show the diplomatic maturity to establish sound relations between the two countries. The research will prove to be successful in addressing the issues related to international relations in a way that promotes understanding of the complexity. The present research work touch to the wider scope. It is limited to the bilateral relations between the India and China. The rise of India and China are the two main political and economic actors in both global political and regional sectors that requires an analysis of their bilateral ties. This research work will help to the research community, Indian government and more significantly the research scholars dealing with international relations.

9. TENTATIVE CHAPTER SCHEME:

The present research work is divided into six chapters for the sake of convenience of study.

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter is introduction of the entire research which provides a well-rounded summary of the entire research and review of some previous research that is relevant to the topic. Intro also provides a brief description of the research questions. What is the experiment or study attempting to demonstrate? What phenomenon is going to be studied? This also

provides a brief history of the study and explains how it is going to be relevance for the society?

Chapter II: Theoretical Framework on International Relations

The second chapter is *Theoretical Framework on International Relations* analyses the existing theories of political relations and national security. It will also thoroughly examine theories of national security and ethnic violence and ethno-nationalism due to illegal migration and migration caused national security problems. The chapter examines both the traditional, classical theories and the modem theories. It also tries to find out how this theoretical investigation is justifying the present study. This chapter also puts a glance on the other available policies, approaches and strategies of political relations and national security existing in present time. This chapter also tries to explore the loopholes of the present policies, approaches and strategies of India. This also discusses about the border management mechanisms, force units, tools and the technology operating to safeguard the national security interests of India.

Chapter III: Indo-China Political Relationship: A Historical Implication

The third chapter is *Political Relationship of Indo-China: A Historical Implication* which focuses broadly and categorically on some definite challenges and obstacles of the relationship between both nations which threats the national security interests of India. These are diverse reasons such as social, political, economic, human right and environmental issues.

Chapter IV: Indo-China Strategic Relations: A Current Position

This chapter considers and contemplates on the bilateral relation between the both countries. The chapter quintessentially covers tentatively twenty years of relationship between the two countries. Both countries as are endeavoring to become superpower. The healthy relation between the countries is quintessential.

Chapter V: Solutions and Strategies of Indo-China Relations

The fifth chapter concentrates on the *Solutions and Strategies of Indo-China Relations* does an in-depth study about all other challenges and obstacles of political which threats the national security interests of India. Those are the issues like terrorism, insurgency movements, growing fundamentalism in China, proliferation of small arms light weapons and Trafficking of drug and human beings.

Chapter VI: Conclusion

The final chapter is *Conclusion* that presents a summary and the general conclusions of the study. It begins by highlighting the major objective of the study, crops covered, data and data sources and the methodology employed in data analysis. The conclusion basically

tries to justify the questions put in introduction or the thesis statement. Finally, the chapter ends by recommending some ways, means and methods of better management of the border and to defend the national security along with areas for further research relating to political relations of India and China.

10. YEARWISE PLAN OF THE RESEARCH WORK:

SR. NO.	PERIOD	NATURE OF THE WORK
1	First Year	Collection of reference books, journals, magazines etc.
		Attending speeches, seminars, conferences and symposiums related to the research topic
2	Second Year	1] Imparting full-fledged knowledge through books, journals, and other sources 2] Interviews of the Experts, Visits 3] Writing Chapters
3	Third Year	Final Draft and submission of Research Work

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